

## Mike Carlton receives 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Award from Friends of Radnor Lake

Assistant Commissioner for State Park Operations Mike Carlton was presented with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Award from the Friends of Radnor Lake on April 10 to honor his bold efforts preserving and protecting the environment. "Mike is a true professional and well deserving of this award," said TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke as part of the recognition event held on a beautiful day along Netherton Point at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. "Mike joins previous recipients that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable contributions in conserving precious resources and building vital public-private relationships," said Emmie Thomas, Friends of Radnor Lake executive director.

Mike Carlton began his career in 1980 as a Seasonal Naturalist at Natchez Trace State Park and Pinson Mounds. He served as a Ranger at Natchez Trace and Cove Lake State Parks until his appointment as manager of Radnor Lake State Natural Area in 1988, where he served until 2001. While at Radnor Lake, Mike was very supportive of all the programs of Friends of Radnor Lake and was extremely active in land acquisition projects. Mike has a bachelor of Science degree and studied wildlife biology at Colorado State University and at the University of Tennessee. He has written two books: *A Wildlife Watchers Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains* and *Tennessee Wonders - a Guide to the Parks of Tennessee*. He has been the recipient of several awards during his tenure in state parks, including the Jim Bailey Award for Environmental Education and twice selected as "Park Manager of the Year." In 2003, Commissioner Jim Fyke tapped Mike as the Director of State Park Operations. In this capacity, Mike supervises all regional and park managers. He is also responsible for all natural areas, the park ranger-training program and emergency responses within state parks. In 2007, Tennessee State Parks were selected the best state park system in the United States. Mike and his wife, Karen, raised their two daughters, Meaghan and Kirsten, at Radnor Lake and often return to this special place for its peace, tranquility and restorative power. [Click here](#) to learn more about *Friends of Radnor Lake*.



Friends Board Member Paul Buchanan; Radnor Lake Park Manager Steve Ward; Tennessee State Parks Assistant Commissioner Mike Carlton and Friends Board Member Tidwell with framed print presented to Mike Carlton upon receiving the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Radnor Lake Environmental Award on April 10 at Radnor Lake State Natural Area.